THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : While it is difficult to generalise, there is need for considerable improvement in access and quality of education in rural areas.

(b) The National Policy on Education, 1986 (NPE) and the programmes taken up in pursuance of NPE lay strong emphasis on equalisation of educational opportunities. Beneficiaries of programme such as Operation Blackboard, Non-formal Education, Rural Functional Literacy Programme, Vocationalisation of Education, Special Literacy Campaigns, Community Polytechnic and Training Rural Youth for Self Employment are predominantly rural.

The Navodaya Vidyalaya scheme has been specially designed to cater to the educational needs of rural talented children.

Setting up of National Commission on Safai Karmacharies

971. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government purpose to set up a national commission for improving the condition of Safai Karmacharies; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are being worked out.

Basic facilities to SC/STs in Madhya Pradesh

972. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State of Madhya Pradesh are on the rise during the last three years;

(b) if so, what are the details of the murders, grievious hurt and other atrocities, committed on SCs and STs in the State during the said period;

(c) whether the Central Government have asked for a report in this regard from the State Government;

(d) if so, what the details of the reply given by the State Government; if any; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to ensure the safety and availability of basic facilities to SC and ST people in Madhya Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below :—

	Scheduled Castes			Scheduled Tribes		
	1989	1990	1991	1989	1990	1991
Murder . . .	74	81	92	38	62	621
G. Hurt . .	171	295	329	77	151	152
Other Offences . .	3691	4500	4653	1826	1899	1721

(c) and (d) A report has also been called for from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. A reply from the State Government is awaited.

(e) The Government of Madhya Pradesh had indicated that every step is being taken to curb these atrocities by altering all important functionaries dealing with the subject.